

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-34 and 36-37 were pending in this application. In the final Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,979 to West ("West"), Claims 11, 12, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over West, in view of , U.S. Patent No. 5,436,906 to Kasuya ("Kasuya"). Claims 31-34 were rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over West, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,432 to Fridley, et al, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,697,787 to Matouka ("Matouka"). Claims 13, 15-17, 36 and 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 13-15, 31 and 37, added dependent claims 38-39 and cancelled claims 1-12 and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19-30 are canceled without prejudice as directed to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 13-18, 31-34, and 37-39 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In this Amendment, claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to recite all the limitations of original claim 13, base claim 11, and intervening claim 12. Dependent claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 13. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to recite all the limitations of original claim 15 and base claim 11. Claim 31 has been amended to recite all the limitations of original claim 31 and dependent claim 36. Accordingly, Applicants

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respectfully submit that independent claims 13,15, and 31, and all dependent claims thereto, will be in allowable condition upon entry of this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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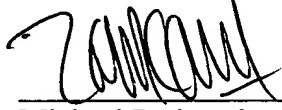
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Respectfully submitted,

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